

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, SHUM, TPHY, BU (MARINOV, STEFAN MARINOV)

SUBJECT:BULGARIAN DISSIDENT SCIENTIST CONFINED IN MENTAL
---- INSTITUTION

REF: SOFIA 00018

1. CHRISTOPHER SNOW REMEMBERS MARINOV AS RESULT OF INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED DURING HIS TOUR (1972-74) IN SOFIA. WHILE UNABLE TO RECALL THE EXACT DATE OF INCIDENT INVOLVING MARINOV, OR IF INCIDENT OCCURRED ON DATE GIVEN REFTTEL, HE RECALLS THAT MARINOV APPEARED IN RECEPTION/LIBRARY AREA OF EMBASSY AND ASKED TO SEE HIM. MARINOV THEN REQUESTED ASYLUM, CLAIMING BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WERE PERSECUTING HIM FOR HIS BELIEFS. MARINOV ALSO PRESENTED SOME DOCUMENTS INCLUDING A COMMITMENT ORDER TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION. SNOW VAGUELY RECOLLECTS, ALSO, A LONG PAPER, HANDWRITTEN IN SOMEWHAT GARBLED ENGLISH, ON A SCIENTIFIC SUBJECT.

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2. MARINOV IMPRESSED SNOW AS A DISTURBED INDIVIDUAL, NOT OPERATING RATIONALLY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE WAS APPARENTLY SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN EDUCATED, SINCE HE SPOKE ENGLISH, AND HAD APPARENTLY SLIPPED OVER THE EDGE. SNOW RECALLS THAT MARINOV REFUSED TO LEAVE AND IT BECAME

NECESSARY TO FORCIBLY REMOVE HIM. THE MSG DETACHMENT WAS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO REMOVE AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE. SNOW IS CERTAIN THAT NEITHER THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES NOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL WERE CONTACTED ABOUT THE INCIDENT, NOR WERE THEY INVITED TO OR INTO THE EMBASSY. SNOW NOTED THAT FSL RECEPTIONIST, MRS. MARINELLA KIROVA, WOULD PROBABLY RECALL THE INCIDENT.

3. BASED UPON AVAILABLE INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT SNOW'S DESCRIPTION OF MARINOV. DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND NO MENTION OF MARINOV IN ITS RECORDS, INCLUDING REPORTING FROM EMBASSY SOFIA. THE ONLY CONFIRMATION OF MARINOV'S STORY IS THE EXISTENCE OF THE TWO ARTICLES MENTIONED REFTEL. HOWEVER, THE TWO SUBJECT JOURNALS WERE IDENTIFIED BY A STAFF MEMBER OF THE THEORITICAL PHYSICS SECTION, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, AS BEING AMONG THE LEAST REPUTABLE IN THE FIELD AND TENDING TO PUBLISH ARTICLES RE SUCH UNESTABLISHED THEORIES. NEITHER OF ARTICLES GAVE ANY INFORMATION DESCRIBING MARINOV'S SCIENTIFIC CREDENTIALS, BUT MENTION ONLY HIS NAME AND ADDRESS -- UL. ELIN PELIN NO. 22, SOFIA 1421. ALSO, DEPARTMENT COULD NOT FIND MARINOV'S NAME IN WHO'S WHO OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR PUBLICATION, INCLUDING ONE ON BULGARIAN SCIENTISTS. EUR/EE WAS ABLE TO CONTACT HELENE BATJER WHO DID NOT RECALL MARINOV OR INCIDENT AS DESCRIBED BY HIM.

4. SNOW ALSO RECALLS THAT BEFORE INCIDENT OUTLINED ABOVE, HE HAD HEARD OF PREVIOUS SUCH INCIDENTS INVOLVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARINOV FROM OTHER EMPLOYEES AT EMBASSY. SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE MARINOV AND A VISIT HE MADE TO EMBASSY SOFIA IN 1964 IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY BY SEPARATE CHANNEL.
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